

Message Text

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43

ACTION SIL-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 L-02 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IGA-01 AID-05 /081 W

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R 021433Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0584

INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTU, AR

SUBJ: ICFTU SPECIAL MISSION TO LATIN AMERICA

1. MARCH 21-24 ICFTU VISIT TO ARGENTINA WAS DISORGANIZED, OR BETTER SAID, UNORGANIZED. GROUP ARRIVED LATE FRIDAY EVENING AND DEPARTED MONDAY, LEAVING IT WITH NO REAL TIME TO ARRANGE VISITS WITH IMPORTANT LEADERS. NO LOCAL ORGANIZATION OR INDIVIDUAL HAD BEEN REQUESTED - OR ATTEMPTED TO - ARRANGE PROGRAM FOR VISITORS. INSTEAD, MYRIAD OF ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVED LETTERS MERELY ADVISING OF PENDING VISIT.

2. AUTOMOBILE WORKERS (SMATA), WHICH NOT AFFILIATED TO ORIT AND

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WHICH HAS MAJOR DIFFERENCES WITH LABOR BOSS LORENZO MIGUELS UNION (UOM), STEPPED IN TO HOST DINNER EVENING OF ARRIVAL. AD HOC

PROGRAM WAS FORMULATED DURING THAT TIME. GROUP DID MEET WITH ORIT AFFILIATES AND PAID OFFICIAL VISIT TO CGT, ALTHOUGH CGT SECGEN HERRERAS DID NOT RECEIVE THEM, NOR DID THEY SEE LORENZO MEIGUE). PRESS VIRTUALLY IGNORED THEIR VISIT.

3. GENERAL REACTION LOCAL LABOR WAS THAT MISSION WAS ABYSMALLY NAIVE ABOUT ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT, WITH NO CONCEPT OF CONFLICTING INTERNAL POWER BLOCS AND INTERESTS. SOME LABOR CONTACTS FELT THAT SHORT, WEEKEND ONLY, VISIT TO CONTINENT'S "MOST IMPORTANT LABOR CENTRAL" WAS INSULTING TO ARGENTINA. ORIT AFFILIATES EXPRESSED SHOCK THAT NO ORIT REPRESENTATIVES ACCOMPANIED MISSION.

4. HOWEVER, DESPITE ABOVE AND UNORGANIZED NATURE OF VISIT, MISSION WAS SUCCESSFUL IN RE-ESTABLISHING CONTACT WITH ARGENTINE LABOR MOVEMENT. CGT DIRECTOR DEPT INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ADVISED LABATT THAT AS RESULT VISIT HE EXPECTED TO VISIT ICFTU HEAD-QUARTERS THIS SUMMER AND POSSIBLY ATTEND FORTHCOMING ICFTU CONGRESS IN MEXICO. HE STRESSED THAT THIS CONTACT IN NO WAY SIGNIFIES CGT INTENT TO AFFILIATE, BUT THAT IT NECESSARY FIRST STEP IF HERETOFORE ISOLATIONIST CGT TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN INTERNATIONAL ARENA. CGT'S MAJOR INTEREST IN ICFTU AT THIS POINT IS ASSISTANCE IT CAN GIVE CGT IN ITS DRIVE FOR MORE INFLUENTIAL ROLE IN ILO. REPORTEDLY QUESTION OF ORIT WAS NOT CONSIDERED AT CGT LEVEL NOR WERE THERE ANY DISCUSSIONS REFERENCE POSSIBLE CGT PARTICIPATION IN INTERAMERICAN ORGANIZATION WHICH MIGHT REPLACE ORIT.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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